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May 28, 2003

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attn: Josephine Gomillion, VIA FAX: 202-565-9002

RE: Union Pacific Railroad Abandonment, Boone and Dallas Counties in Iowa;
Docket # AB-33 (Sub-No. 187X)

Dear Ms Gomillion and Secretary Williams:

This letter is in response to the request of the Iowa Department of Transportation to remove the rail lines from the road crossings on the Slater to Woodward Corridor. We are currently working with the county conservation boards and the Rail Car Operators on the preservation of this line for both rail and trail use.

We will know within this first 180-day Notice of Interim Trail Use if we will be successful in preserving the corridor to serve both purposes. However, we have received unofficial word from UP Railroad that after that time frame, they will want to begin salvaging the rails and ties, but will continue to negotiate the sale of the land, ballast and bridges only for railbanking and interim trail use purposes.

We would request that IDOT wait until the end of the first 180-day NITU is expired (August 10, 2003) to begin removing the rails from the crossings. If a second NITU extension is requested and granted we will not object to IDOT removing the crossings from the state roads at that time.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mark C. Ackelson
President

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Cc: Union Pacific Railroad
Iowa Department of Transportation

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